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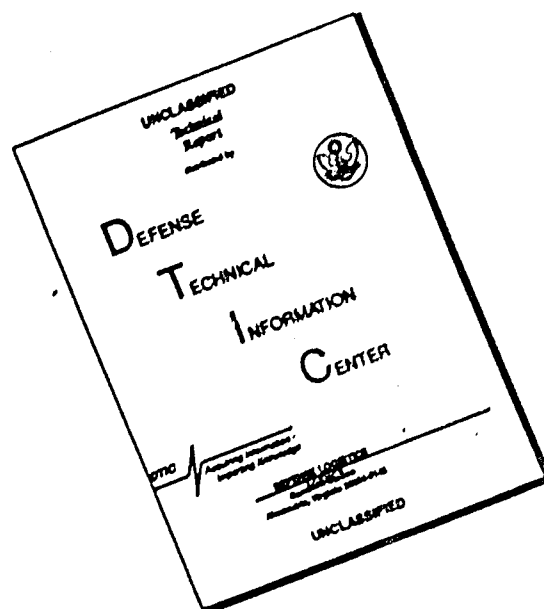
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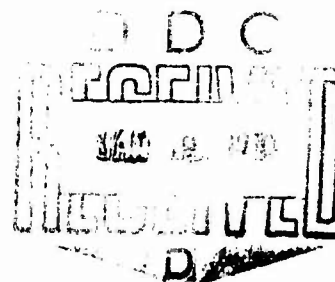
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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AGDA (M) (8 Dec 69) FOR OT UT 693348

17 December 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, Period Ending 31 July 1969 (U)

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 23D ARTILLERY GROUP
APO San Francisco 96289

AVGE-C

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group
(UIC: AOXTO) Period Ending 31 July 1969, RGS-CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

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1. (C) Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. Personnel

(1) The 23d Artillery Group remains assigned to the US Army Vietnam.

(2) Significant SI Activities:

(a) The following battalions received their Annual General Inspections on dates indicated:

1st Battalion, 27th Artillery 19 - 23 May 1969

3d Battalion, 197th Artillery 28 Jul - 1 Aug 1969

(b) The overall casualties as a result of hostile fire increased during the reporting period. There were 5 KIA representing a decrease of 5 over last quarter. There were 95 WIA which was an increase of 25 over last quarter. Overall non-hostile casualties increased. There were 2 deaths, no change since last quarter, and 38 injuries which represents an increase of 23 over last quarter.

(c) Personnel strength did not exceed authorized strength for the reporting period. Average strength was 96% and there were no significant overages or shortages.

(d) The Group has a shortage in MOS's indicated below:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASG</u>	<u>PCT</u>
13B 40 Fld Arty Crewman	370	293	79%
13E40 Asst Chief FD Computer	70	35	50%
13Z50 Fld Arty Sr Sergeant	54	36	67%

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<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASG</u>	<u>PCT</u>
31G40 Commo Chief	20	15	75%
31G50 Tactical Commo Chief	7	3	43%
35D20 Metro Equip Rprmn	4	2	50%
36K20 Fld Wireman	253	199	79%
45G20 Turret Arty Rprmn	18	11	61%
63G40 Gen Veh Rprmn	38	25	66%
71T20 Maint Data Specialist	31	8	26%
76Y40 Supply Sergeant	40	30	75%
82G40 Survey Chief	20	13	65%
94B40 Mess Steward	33	26	79%

(e) Awards presented during the period were as follows: 3 Silver Stars (decrease), 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses (increase), 3 Legions of Merit (increase), 5 Soldier's Medals (increase), 133 Bronze Stars (increase), 23 Air Medals (decrease), 243 Army Commendation Medals (increase), 95 Purple Hearts (increase), and 53 USARV Certificates of Achievement.

b. Operations

(1) The 23d Artillery Group continues support of operations in the III Corps Tactical Zone. The Group Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and all attached battalions were engaged in operations, troop movements, and training during the entire reporting period (92 days).

(2) On 23 June 1969, the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery assumed responsibility for AWCC and the artillery portion of base defense at Quan Loi. The 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery took over responsibility for the Artillery portion of base defense on 27 June 1969.

(3) At 0800 hours, 11 July 1969, the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery assumed the following responsibilities:

(a) Receive, consolidate, and pass on to 7/11th Artillery all operational, position, and situation reports from C/7/11 (DS, 4/9), A/2/77 (DS, 2/22), B/1/27 (GSR, 25th Div Arty) and B/2/13 (GSR, 25th Div Arty).

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- (b) Receive and pass on to 7/11 Arty position and situation reports on 4/9 Inf, 2/22 Inf, and 3/4 Cav.
- (c) Establish a separate monitoring capability for the LNO's and FO's with each of the maneuver elements.
- (d) Supplement fires planned by LNO's.
- (e) Assist 7/11 Arty in controlling the operations of the 4 batteries listed in item 3(a).
- (f) Grant US Military Clearance for all fires south of the 42 grid line in Tay Ninh Province.
- (g) Obtain and pass on all clearances for batteries listed in item 3(a).
- (h) Request all available fires from 7/11 when appropriate.

(4) The Group continues to make effective use of its automatic FM relay on Nui Ba Den (XT2859). The use of the automatic FM relay on Nui Chau Chan (YT6010) was discontinued on 23 May 69 when D/2/13 (Provisional) returned to Phu Loi. It was reactivated on 7 June 1969 when D/2/13 moved to FSB Ann and was used extensively through 16 July 1969 when the battery returned to Phu Loi.

(5) The Group initiated the use of a Nestor Keylist and Orastes Keylist assigned specifically to the Group on 1 June 1969. Use of the Nestor Keylist was terminated on 30 June 1969 and a joint Sea Ground Keylist used throughout the III CTZ was initiated on 1 July 1969.

(6) As the reporting period opened, the 2d Battalion, 13th Artillery was providing support of the 1st Infantry Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), and the 3d Mobile Strike Force Command of Company A, 5th SFGA. Headquarters Battery and Service Battery were located at Phu Loi (XT8615) and remained there throughout the reporting period. Battery A was located at Phu Loi (XT8517) with the mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, and did not displace during the reporting period. Battery B began the period with two howitzers at FSB Diamond III (XT3221) and four howitzers at FSB Hampton (XT4124) with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 13 May, the two tubes at Diamond III moved by air and the four tubes at FSB Hampton moved by convoy to FSB Emory (XT7014). On 16 and 24 June, two howitzers moved from FSB Emory to Cu Chi to support the 25th Division's Leadership School. On both occasions, the howitzers returned to FSB Emory the same day. On 27 June, the battery moved from FSB Emory to FSB Hunter (XT3642). The battery closed at 1150 hours; no change in mission. On 29 July 1969, the battery moved from FSB Hunter to Tay Ninh by convoy and then by fixed wing to Phuoc Vinh. Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. On 8 May, the battery moved to Phuoc Vinh (XT9548) with no mission change. On 11 May, the battery moved from

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Phuoc Vinh to Phu Loi (XT8515), and on 12 May moved to FSB Thunder IV (XT7689). Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 22 June, the battery's mission changed to GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. Battery D, a composite 105mm/155mm battery made up of personnel and equipment from A/2/13 and B/3/197, began the reporting period at FSB Dottie (YT2054) with the mission of Direct Support, 3d MSFC, Co A, 5th SFGA. On 16 May, the battery moved from FSB Dottie (YT2054) to FSB Terry (YT0842) by air. On 28 May, the battery returned to Phu Loi by air for a ten day stand down. On 7 June, the three 105mm tubes moved from Phu Loi to FSB Ann (YT2648) and were followed by the 155mm Howitzers on 8 June. The mission of the battery was again Direct Support, 3d MSFC, Co A, 5th SFGA. On 15 July, the 155mm's returned to Phu Loi, and were followed by the 105mm's on 16 July. The battery was deactivated on 16 July with the men and equipment returning to control of their parent units.

(7) The beginning of the reporting period found the 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery supporting the 25th Infantry Division, the 1st Infantry Division, and providing general support for II FFORCEV. Headquarters Battery was located at Tay Ninh (XT1552) and did not move during the reporting period. Service Battery began the reporting period at Tan Son Nhut (XS8197) but moved to Tay Ninh in order to better support the battalion. The battery closed Tay Ninh on 7 July 1969. Battery A began the reporting period at FSB Washington (XT1456) with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 14 May, the battery moved to (XT1361) for a one day operation, and returned to FSB Washington at 1915 hours the same day. On 15 May, Battery A moved again to XT1361 for a one day operation, and from XT1361 the battery moved to FSB Rawlins III (XT2948); closing at 151715H May 1969 with no change in mission. On 28 May, the battery moved to (XT3117) for a one day operation and returned to Rawlins III the same day. Battery B began the quarter with two howitzers at Thunder IV (XT7689) and four howitzers at Quan Loi (XT8290). The battery's mission was GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 7 May, two tubes from Quan Loi moved to Thunder IV (XT7389) and on 9 May, the remaining two tubes moved to Thunder IV closing at 1630 hours. On 10 May, two sections from Thunder IV moved to Binh Duc (XT7081) for a one day operation and returned to Thunder IV the next day. On 12 May, the battery moved to Quan Loi by road, then by fixed wing to LZ Joe, where they were air lifted by helicopter to LZ White (XT4462). Closing time was 1900 hours and the battery's mission was changed to GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. On 8 July, the battery moved from LZ White to Dau Tieng (XT4947). Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 17 July, the battery displaced to FSB Dolly (XT5258) and its mission changed to GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. On 28 July, the battery displaced by air from FSB Dolly to FSB Hunter (XT3642). Mission upon closure was GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. Battery C began the reporting period with three sections at Katum (XT3389) and three sections at Thien Ngon (XT0881). The battery's mission was GSR, II FFORCEV, priority of fires Co A, 5th SFGA. On 15 July, two howitzers from Katum moved to Tay Ninh (XT1552), mission upon closure was GS, II FFORCEV. On 19 July, the two sections displaced by air to FSB St Barbara (XT2769). No Change in mission. The remaining tube at Katum displaced

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to St Barbara by air on 23 July. On 30 July, two sections were air lifted from Thien Ngon to St Barbara. At the close of the reporting period, Battery C had one section at Thien Ngon and five sections at St Barbara.

(3) The 3d Bn, 197th Artillery began the reporting period supporting the 1st Infantry Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the Capital Military Assistance Command, and Company A, 5th SFGA. Headquarters Battery and Service Battery remained at Phu Loi (XT8415) throughout the reporting period. Battery A began the quarter with three tubes at FSB Thunder III (XT7665) and three tubes at LZ Joe (XT6266). The battery's mission was GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 23 May, the three tubes from LZ Joe moved to FSB Lori (XT6062) with no change in mission. The three howitzers remained at FSB Lori until 22 June when they moved to Thunder III (XT7665) to join the remainder of the battery. Upon closure, the mission of the battery changed to GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. Three tubes from Battery B participated in all operations involving D/2/13 Artillery. The remainder of the battery remained at Phu Loi through 17 July with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 17 July, three tubes from Phu Loi moved to Dau Tieng (XT4947). Mission upon closure was GS, II FFORCEV. The three tubes which normally comprise the 155mm element of D/2/13 Artillery remained at Phu Loi (XT8415) and continued the mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 25 July, the three tubes at Dau Tieng returned to Phu Loi by convoy and resumed mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. Battery C remained at FSB Copperhead (XT8002) throughout the reporting period and was OPCON CMAC.

(9) The 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery began the reporting period providing support for the 25th Infantry Division and General Support for II FFORCEV. Headquarters Battery remained at Dau Tieng (XT4947) and Service Battery at Cu Chi (XT6616) throughout the quarter. Battery A began the reporting period at Dau Tieng (XT4947) with the mission of GS, II FFORCEV. On 8 July, the battery moved to XT3459. Mission upon closure was GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 11 July, two tubes moved from XT3459 to the vicinity of Nui Ba Den (XT3058) to support a one day operation. On 16 July, the entire battery moved to Tay Ninh (XT3458); no change of mission. On 21 and 22 July, the battery moved to vicinity of XT1645 for one day operations in support of 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. The battery returned to Tay Ninh both days. On 25 July, the battery returned to Dau Tieng by convoy. Mission upon closure reverted to GS, II FFORCEV. Battery B was initially located at FSB Stoneman (XT3037) with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 4 June, the battery made a one day operation from FSB Stoneman to FSB Hull (XT2638) and returned to FSB Stoneman the same day. On 3 July, the battery moved one platoon to Tay Ninh. The platoon returned to FSB Stoneman on 6 July. Battery C began the reporting period at Cu Chi (XT6616) with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 15 May, the battery moved from Cu Chi (XT6616) to FSB Washington (XT1456). No change in mission. On 20 and 22 May, the battery made one day moves from FSB Washington (XT1456) to XT1363 and returned to FSB Washington the same day.

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On 24 June, four tubes from FSB Washington moved to Mo Cong (XT1361) for a one day operation supporting the 25th Division's Bomb Damage Assessment Team. On 1 July, two tubes moved to the vicinity of Nui Ba Den (XT3156) to support a one day operation. Mechanical difficulties delayed return of the howitzers to FSB Washington until 2 July 1969. On 26 July, the battery moved to (XT 1361) to support the 25th Infantry Division's Bomb Damage Assessment Team. The battery returned to FSB Washington the same day.

(10) The beginning of the reporting period found the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery providing General Support for II FFORCEV. Headquarters Battery and Service Battery were located at Tay Ninh (XT1452) and did not move throughout the reporting period. Battery A was located at Camp St Barbara (XT2768) throughout the reporting period. On 13 and 14 July, one 8" tube moved each day to the vicinity of Nui Ba Den (XT2761). Both days the tube returned to St Barbara prior to nightfall. Battery B began the reporting period at Tay Ninh (XT1552). On 4 May, one 8" section moved to patrol base Miller (XT1253) for a one day operation. The section closed back to Tay Ninh (XT1552) at 041630H May 1969. On 22 May, one 8" tube moved to the vicinity of (XT1362) for a one day operation with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. The section returned to Tay Ninh at 1700 hours and resumed the battery's mission of GS, II FFORCEV. On 24 May, one 8" platoon moved to Cu Chi and on the following day, moved to FSB Elaine (XT5504). Mission upon closure was GSR, 25th ARVN Division Artillery. On 21 June, one 8" tube was changed to a 175mm in order to provide fire support for the Special Forces camp at Duc Hue and on 21 July the other tube was converted to 175mm. Throughout the reporting period, one 8" howitzer from Tay Ninh participated in several one day operations in the vicinity of Nui Ba Den. The moves supported operations by the 25th Infantry Division and took place on the following dates: June 27 and 28; July 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, and 31. On 21 and 22 July, both 8" sections moved to vicinity XT1645 for one day operations. Battery C remained at Dau Tieng (XT4949) providing General Support for II FFORCEV throughout the quarter.

(11) The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery began the reporting period providing General Support for II FFORCEV and General Support Reinforcing fires for the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. Headquarters Battery remained at Quan Loi (XT8090) and Service Battery at Long Binh (XT0409) throughout the quarter. Battery A began the period with two 175mm sections at Quan Loi (XT8090) and two 8" sections at LZ Joe (XT6264). The battery's mission was GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 13 May, two sections from LZ Joe (XT6264) joined the remainder of the battery at Quan Loi; no change in mission. On 22 June, however, the battery's mission was changed to GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. Battery B remained at Phuoc Binh (YU1407) and Battery C remained at Phuoc Vinh (XT9849) until 31 July when two 175mm moved to YTC363 for a one day operation. The two sections returned to Phuoc Vinh the same day. The mission of both batteries was GS, II FFORCEV. The beginning of the quarter found F/16 Artillery, a 155mm

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battery attached to the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, located at Quan Loi with the mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 11 May, three sections moved from Quan Loi (XT8190) to Thien Ngon (XT0881). Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. On 14 May, the mission was changed to reinforcing the fires of the 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery. On 15 May, three sections from Thien Ngon moved to Quan Loi. Upon arrival at Quan Loi, two of these sections boarded aircraft and moved to Bu Dop (XU9627). Mission upon closure was DS, Co A, 5th SFGA. On 30 May, the two sections at Bu Dop returned to Quan Loi and resumed the mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 22 June, the battery's mission was changed to GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery.

(12) Ammunition Expenditure Chart

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NR MISSIONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS EXPENDED</u>			
		<u>105</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>8"</u>	<u>175</u>
F/16	3617		14,162		
2/13	7103	49,044	4,695		
6/15	31,195	89,831			
1/27	6,969		64,800		
3/197	6,420		36,826		
2/32	7,890			15,342	10,719
6/27	10,607			10,407	10,162
<hr/>					
23d Artillery Group	73,801	138,875	120,483	25,749	20,881

c. Training

(1) Fire Direction Centers and howitzer/gun sections continue to stress basic artillery procedures to insure timely and accurate fires in support of maneuver elements.

(2) Counter Sapper Training was also emphasized during the reporting period. All battalions formulated training programs and conducted extensive training to cope with sapper tactics and potential sapper attacks.

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(3) In order to assist the Group Material Readiness Program at battalion level, a 5 day course outlining material readiness policies and procedures was instituted on 30 June, with 6 successive weekly classes to be conducted through the period 1 August 1969. The objective of this course is to provide battalion supervisors with a working knowledge of the material readiness program.

(4) From 27-31 May, the Group Signal Officer, with assistance from the 1st Logistical Command, conducted three classes on the radio type-writer set, AN/GRC 142. The classes were attended by 10 signal officers and 13 operator personnel.

(5) In order to insure a continuous complement of competent Fire Direction Officers, the Group Operations Section has developed a test which all newly assigned company grade officers must pass before assuming the duties and responsibilities of a Fire Direction Officer.

d. Intelligence

(1) The following security clearances were granted or validated during the quarter.

Top Secret clearances validated	41
Secret clearances granted	114
Interim Secret clearances granted	17
Local Files Checks processed	422
Secret clearances validated	231

(2) During the period 1 May - 31 July 1969, the Group's VR program experienced further reduction in missions and VR hours flown due to reduction of daily mission aircraft support. Only 462 VR missions were flown compared to 743 for the previous reporting period; a decrease of 281 VR missions. Total VR hours dropped from 1530 to 1080; a decrease of 450 hours. Some reduction in the number of VR hours flown during June and July resulted from inclement weather and poor visibility.

(3) The 234th FA Detachment (Radar) completed three moves during the period. The first move on 22 June 1969 was for a special 7 day support mission at Duc Hue SF Camp, to assist in suppressing daily heavy mortar attacks on the camp located less than 5 km from Cambodia. During the period the radar was in operation, only one mortar attack was launched against the position. The launch position was located by

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radar during the attack; heavy artillery countermortar fire was requested and the mortar position silenced. Following the special mission, the 234th Radar was moved to Bien Hoa on 29 June 1969 and placed OPCON to BHTOC. The radar was again moved to Duc Hue on 19 July 1969 for an indefinite period and continues to be effective in suppressing mortar attacks on the camp. The camp has received only one heavy and two light mortar attacks since emplacement of the radar. During the period, the 234th Radar experienced 46 hours of down time; a significant reduction from the 123 hours for the previous quarter.

(4) The 260th Radar Detachment was moved from FSB Mahone II (XT5437) to Camp St Barbara, where for the first time since attachment to the Group in November 1968, it is OPCON to a group artillery unit. The radar has proved successful in suppressing mortar attacks against the FSB. Down time for the 260th Radar increased from 19 hours to 56 hours.

e. Logistics

(1) Normal supply and logistic support was provided all Group units. An average of 23 resupply sorties, an increase of 4 from last quarter, were flown daily.

(2) The newly assigned motor officer and maintenance technician greatly improved the material readiness posture of the Group. All equipment deadline ratios showed improvement and were below USARV deadline standards.

(3) The unique supply problems encountered in Vietnam established the Group Material Release Expediter as an essential link in the development of a supply program responsive to Group demands. With the rapid build up of a logistical base in Vietnam, the US Army Depot in Long Binh was inundated by a massive volume of equipment and repair parts. In addition, numerous depot relocations, inventories, and computerization, have temporarily hindered a quick response to supply needs. The MRE provides an important service through his efforts to improve the logistical readiness posture of the Group while not interfering with the operation of the depot supply, storage, and issue system. The Group MRE acts as an intermediary between depot and the user battalions by hand carrying requisitions through depot and actually searching the warehouses and open storage areas to ascertain the location and availability of critically needed equipment. The MRE is also responsible for follow-up action on previously submitted requisitions, accepting custody of rejected requisitions and informing the Group of errors discovered, confirming that depot/USAICCV holds correct tabular authority data, providing requisite copies of authorization documents, informing the depot customer assistance branch of organizational supply problems, and stopping shipments at depot when supplies are known to be no longer required by the Group.

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f. Organization: No change

g. Other

(1) Civic Action:

(a) The civic action projects conducted by this headquarters included MEDCAP's, distribution of commodities, assistance to schools and civic organizations, training, and construction. MEDCAP's were conducted 3 times per week on a regular schedule at the Gadsden Refugee Village Dispensary. This village is located between Phu Loi and Phu Quong, and until its completion on 1 December 1968, the village itself had been a 23d Artillery Group project for more than two years. The MEDCAP was conducted a total of 38 times with more than 15,000 patient visits. These included 7,600 tuberculosis patients who require repetitive treatment. The S5 Section distributed 1,000 pounds of food and 7 - 55 gallon barrels to local church groups and civic organizations. Four schools and one scouting program were supported during the period. Support to the schools was provided in the form of books, maps, writing materials, and other school supplies. Surplus foodstuffs were provided to a local Boy Scout Troop on one occasion. The S5 Section conducted a total of 40 one-hour English classes during the period. One construction project was completed during the period. It consisted of the installation of a water pump at Gadsden Refugee Village.

(b) The Group's civic action program continued to function effectively in helping the Vietnamese people to help themselves, thus aiding in the accomplishment of our ultimate objective in Vietnam.

(2) Health of Command:

(a) In this quarter, there has been a 27.3% rise in respiratory diseases. The largest rise occurred in June. This is a reflection of the onset of the rainy season where a sudden drop of temperature occurs with torrential rains at night.

(b) There was also a 17.4% increase in dermatologic diseases with the leading type being heat rash. This is a reflection on the increase in the average daily humidity.

(c) Fevers of unknown origin increased by 48.2%. Most of these are viral infections which ran a benign course in 5 to 10 days with complete remission. The virus is spread by a mosquito bite and the increased incidence is a reflection of increased mosquito population in the humid season.

(d) There were five cases of infectious hepatitis for the quarter and two cases of malaria. The low incidence of hepatitis speaks well for the adequacy of the water supply. The low incidence of malaria

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demonstrates the value of chemoprophylaxis.

(3) Aviation

(a) Normal aviation support for the 23d Artillery Group Headquarters and assigned battalions was provided by a consolidated aviation section.

(b) The following deletions and additions of aircraft occurred during the reporting period:

(1) Three O-1D, Bird dogs, and one U-6A, Beaver, were turn-ins by direction of USARV, leaving a zero balance of fixed-wing aircraft in the Group.

(2) One UH-1B was turned in by direction of USARV, leaving a zero balance of utility rotary-wing aircraft.

(3) One OH-6A was turned in for crash damage and three OH-6A's were turned in by direction of USARV. One OH-6A was received leaving a total of four OH-6A's, one of which is on hand receipt to the 25th Aviation Company.

(4) Seven OH-23's were picked up to replace aircraft turned in and one OH-23 was received from the 54th Artillery Group on hand receipt, giving a total of eight light observation aircraft.

2. (C) Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observation, Evaluation, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel. Preparation of Morning Reports

(1) OBSERVATION: The accurate and timely preparation of morning reports is directly related to the proper maintenance of unit strength.

(2) EVALUATION: Morning reports were prepared at the battery level, but due to the wide displacement of units and difficulty in distributing correspondence caused by this displacement, morning reports were being submitted to the Data Processing Center, HQ, USARV, as late as eleven days after the effective date of the morning report. To eliminate this excessive lag in submitting morning reports, all morning reports were prepared by the consolidated personnel section and authenticated by the Group Personnel Officer. Batteries now submit daily feeder reports, thereby reducing the submission time to approximately two days.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That units utilizing consolidated personnel sections have the section prepare and authenticate all morning reports.

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b. Operations. M36 Chronograph

(1) OBSERVATION: Downtime on the M36 Chronograph has been reduced by transporting the chronograph by air instead of by road.

(2) EVALUATION: Prior to May 1969, this unit's Chronograph Team moved entirely by road from one field location to another. Upon arrival at the calibration site, it was frequently discovered that the equipment was inoperable due to the banging and bouncing encountered on the rough roads over which the vehicles had to travel. Starting in May, the chronograph was transported as much as possible by aircraft (both fixed wing and rotary wing). The result was much less downtime for the M36 and a much higher rate of successful calibrations.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That this information be disseminated to all units operating the M36 Chronograph.

c. Training. None

d. Intelligence.

(1) Graphic Order of Battle

(a) OBSERVATION: Group and battalion level intelligence staff sections have a limited capability to properly record and interpret order of battle due to limited personnel and physical resources.

(b) EVALUATION: Correlation of order of battle information is necessary in order to provide the commander with accurate, concise information as to enemy activities. Normally, group and battalion staff intelligence resources are extremely limited. Because of limitations, standard methods of maintaining order of battle, such as card files, are unsatisfactory; consequently, a method is necessary for maintaining order of battle of information in an immediately available, readily understandable format, capable of relating all factors affecting enemy operations.

(c) RECOMMENDATION:

(1) Limited intelligence operations should make use of an abbreviated order of battle presented in graphic format.

(2) Information can be presented utilizing 1:50,000 maps of each area of interest, cut to 8 1/2 X 10" sheets and mounted in numerical order, according to map sheet number, in a 3" loose leaf binder, indexed according to the specific geographical or political areas depicted on each sheet.

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(3) For each map sheet mounted in the binder, acetate overlays should be prepared. Each overlay should depict categories of information of interest. For example, successive overlays might show the VC political divisions; readouts from low level agents reports; plots of airborne sensor activations; intelligence targets and range fans of local artillery units or division TAOR's. The possibilities are limited only by the imagination of the individual preparing the overlays.

(4) The advantage of such a system is that all information relative to a particular geographical area is immediately available. The basic map sheet also remains clean, so that map reconnaissance is more easily accomplished with respect to any one of the acetate overlays.

(5) Such a system should be employed by intelligence staffs with limited resources to aid the commander in the assimilation of intelligence information.

(2) AN/MPQ-4A Radar

(a) OBSERVATION: Heavy and medium artillery (155mm, 8" and 175mm) firing in close proximity to AN/MPQ-4A Radars, seriously degrades the operational capability of the radar.

(b) EVALUATION: The concussion associated with the muzzle blast from heavy artillery results in shorted tubes and malfunctions in relays in AN/MPQ-4A Radars situated close to gun tubes. If the radar is moved to a position at least 150 meters from the tubes, the degrading effect of the muzzle blast concussion is greatly reduced.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That AN/MPQ-4A Radars collocated with medium and heavy artillery batteries be positioned at least 150 meters from the gun tubes.

e. Logistics.

(1) Maintenance of M548 and Self-Propelled Artillery Weapons

(a) OBSERVATION: M548's and self-propelled artillery weapons located at fire support bases are seldom operated. The engines are not run enough to prevent excessive oil and fuel dilution from moisture condensation.

(b) EVALUATION: The combination of heat, dirt, and moisture presents a difficult maintenance problem for the engines on M548's and self-propelled artillery weapons. On several occasions, vehicles at fire support bases were not able to move because of the dirt and moisture that had contaminated the engine oil supply and fuel. Consequently, these vehicles were not able to accomplish their mission.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: That commanders insure M548's and self-propelled artillery weapons are exercised a minimum of 5 miles per week. A record of exercise should be maintained and subjected to inspection on command visits. In addition, fuel cells should be completely drained and thoroughly cleaned once a month.

(2) Shortage of 32 Gallon GI Cans

(a) OBSERVATION: Many batteries at Group fire support bases have experienced a shortage of 32 gallon GI cans for mess hall operations. These shortages are a sanitation hazard and make proper cleaning of mess and equipment very difficult.

(b) EVALUATION: In lieu of a 32 gallon GI can, 55 gallon POL drums can be utilized as a wash or rinse container. Two 55 gallon drums are necessary to construct this container (See Incl 1). First, the top is removed from one POL drum, and inside scoured out. The second drum is split vertically and welded to the sides of the first drum. Metal legs are welded to the bottoms of these half drums for support. The halves now form a trough across the top of the barrel. In the center upright barrel an immersion heater is placed, and the barrel filled with either clear water for rinse or soapy water for wash. Circulation in and out of the trough is provided by the turbulence of the heated water.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That units be advised of this expedient method of providing wash and rinse facilities in lieu of an adequate supply of GI cans.

f. Signal.

(1) OBSERVATION: Excessive noise and power hum in tactical switchboards often make communications extremely difficult.

(2) EVALUATION: This excessive noise and power hum can be reduced by the following actions:

(a) Route telephone circuits away from AC power lines, power generating equipment, and electrical motors.

(b) Provide a very low resistance parallel ground system that is not common to radio equipment, power generating equipment, and other equipment employing electrical motors.

(c) Use Idle Line Terminating Networks, TA-691/TT FSN 5805-G39-2520, to terminate all VHF circuits at SB-86's.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That this information be disseminated to all units in Vietnam and be stressed in communication courses taught at US Army Service Schools.

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g. Aviation. Aircraft Maintenance

(1) OBSERVATION: The Group's Aviation Section encountered excessive maintenance down-time on its aircraft due to overflying.

(2) EVALUATION: All flyable aircraft were flown everyday until very few were available for missions because of required maintenance. This resulted in long periods of limited aviation support for assigned units. The situation was remedied by allotting time to supported units on a monthly basis. The total flying hours available were determined by multiplying the number of Group aircraft by the average time flown by type aircraft as determined by USARV. Time allotted to units was based on the distance they were required to cover visiting their subordinate units.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That the information be disseminated to all units having a consolidated aviation section.

h. Organization. None.

i. Other. None.

2 Incl
as

W. B. Beinke
W. BEINKE
Colonel, FA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Commander In Chief, United States Army Pacific
- 3 - Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam
- 4 - Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery

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AVFB-FAC (12 Aug 69) 1st Ind

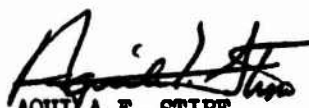
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266 25 AUG 1969

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-RE, APO 96266

The quarterly report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


AQUILA E. STIPE
Major, FA
Adjutant

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14 SEP 1969

AVFBC-RE-H (12 Aug 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558


TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report-Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group for the period ending 31 July 1969 as indorsed, with the following comments: Reference paragraph 1a(2)(d).

a. The personnel shortages were discussed with the S1, 23d Artillery Group in an effort to determine what they had done to call these shortages to the attention of USARV. The S1 indicated that on numerous occasions he had discussed the shortages with the Chief of the USARV AG Enlisted Replacement Division. Additionally, a letter was sent to the USARV AG, and the reply indicated that the 23d Artillery Group had its fair share of the available.

b. The S1, 23d Artillery Group has been asked to provide this headquarters with an updated list of these critical shortages so that we may evaluate the current status and make a determination as to the action this headquarters should take to assist the 23d Group in this personnel problem.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


B. G. MACDONALD
ILT, AGC
Asst AG

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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AVHGC-DST (12 Aug 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group (UIC: AOXTO)
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 1 NOV 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group.

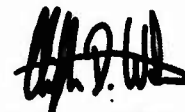
2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "M36 Chronograph," section II, page 12, paragraph 2b; concur. The experience of other FA units also indicates that the M36 chronograph should be carefully transported. This recommendation has been extracted and will be considered for inclusion in a USARV Training Newsletter.

b. Reference item concerning "Maintenance of M548 and Self-Propelled Artillery Weapons," section II, page 13, paragraph 2e(1); nonconcur. Draining and cleaning fuel cells on a monthly basis is unnecessary. The accumulation of dirt and moisture in vehicle fuel systems is not caused by vehicle inactivity but by the failure to perform periodic operator and organizational maintenance, such as draining fuel filters, and changing or cleaning air, fuel, and oil filter elements. Additionally, condensation of moisture in fuel cells can be minimized by insuring that fuel cells are topped off nightly. Exercising vehicles that are seldom used is acceptable, but the strongest emphasis should be placed on the regular performance of operator and organizational maintenance. No further action is required by this or higher headquarters.

c. Reference item concerning "Shortage of 32 Gallon GI Cans," section II, page 14, paragraph 2e(2); concur. In view of the shortage of 32 gallon cans for immersion heaters, it is recommended that the field expedient cited in Paragraph 58, Chapter 3, and Appendix D, 2b, TM 10-405, Field Messing and Field Expedients, be used until a resupply of cans arrives in RVN. The ICC initiated action to remove the hold on 32 gallon cans and will start bringing them into RVN again.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON .
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
23d Arty Gp
II FFV

GPOP-DT (12 Aug 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 23d Artillery Group
(UIC: AOXTO) for Period Ending 31 July 1969,
RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 12 NOV 69

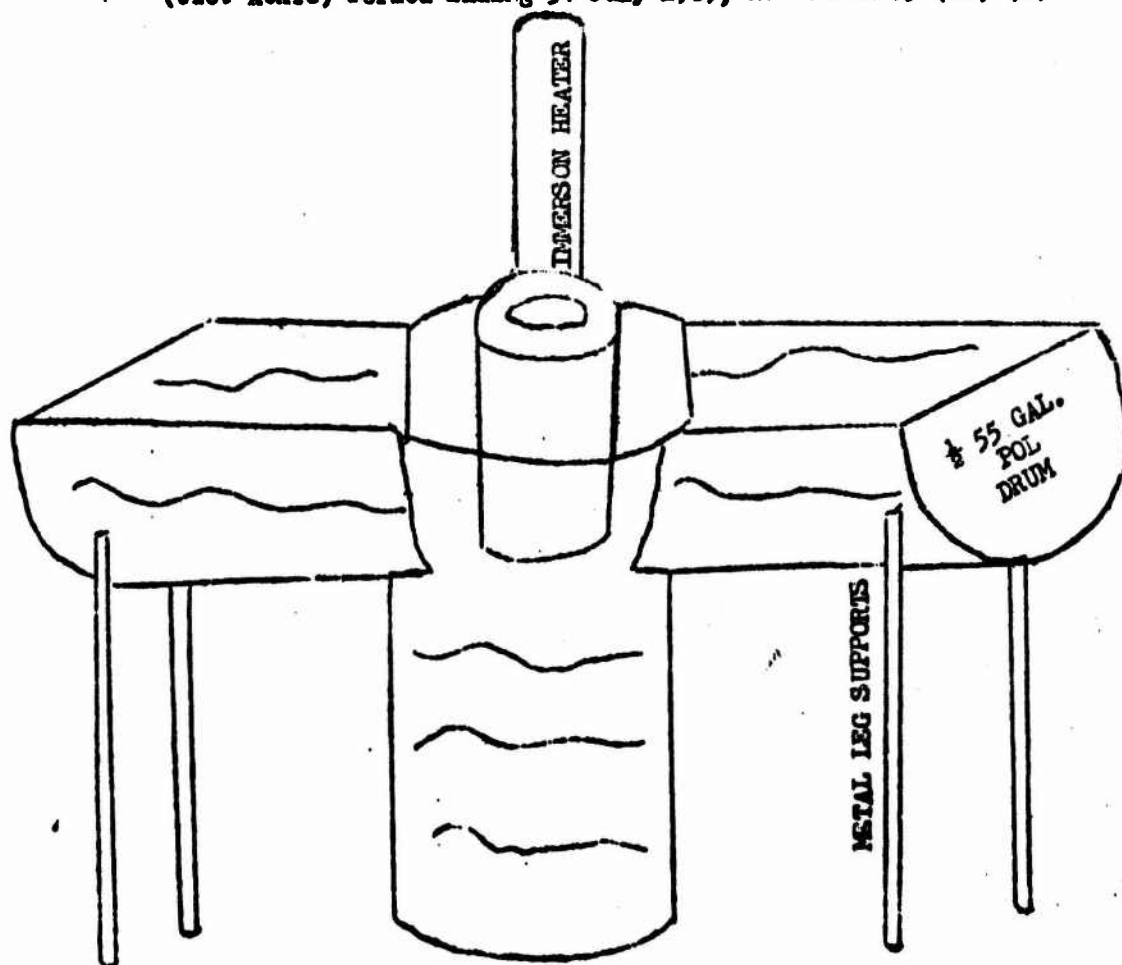
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department
of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

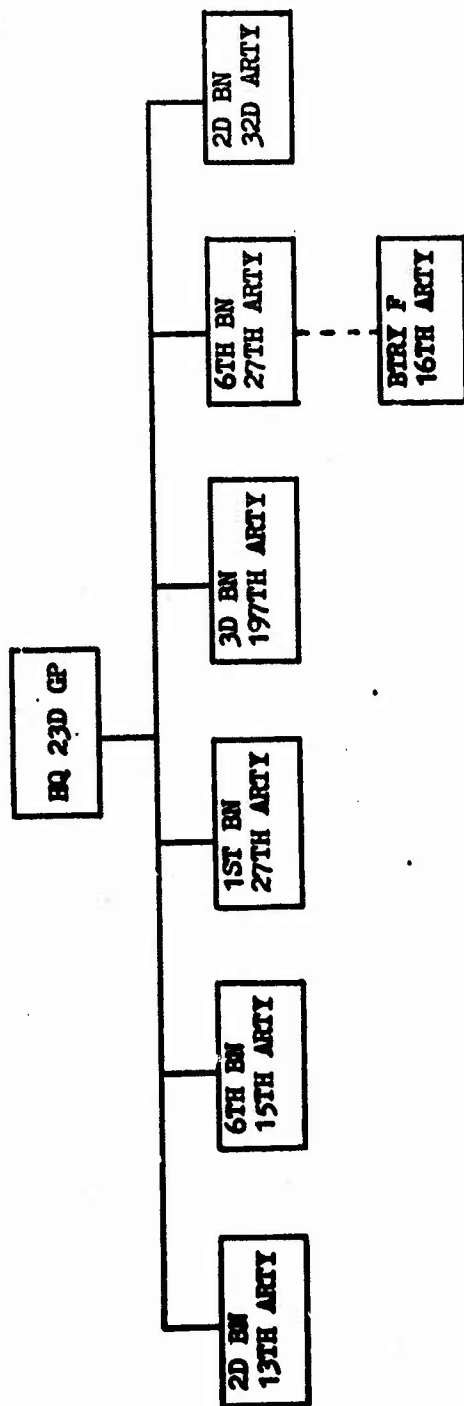

C. L. SHERRITT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

AVGE-C
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters , 23d Artillery Group
(UIC: AOXTO) Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS-CSTOR-65 (RI) (U)



INCLOSURE 1

23D ARTILLERY GROUP ORGANIZATION AS OF 31 JULY 1969



— Assigned
— Attached

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

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